

MICHIGAN AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUNITY FIVE YEAR ACTION PLAN	
WORKGROUP NAME:	Voucher Process Strategy Team, VP Team
DATE:	September 13, 2005

WORKGROUP STATUS UPDATES
<p>In Attendance: Chris Collette, Cathy Simons, Sandy Pearson, Bob Howard, Jane Scarlett, Donita Olson, Brian Soderberg, Elizabeth Lindsley</p> <p>Conference Call: Jim Schaafsma, Rob Nelson, Daryel</p> <p>Absent: Janet Irrer, Ayana Isreal</p> <p>I. Action Item #1, Chris</p> <p>Serve elderly, disabled, lowest income, homeless, domestic violence with the Housing Choice Voucher (change of wording). An analysis of AML, Poverty Level, Payment Standards/Fair Market Rents, and so forth was conducted to determine whether a target should be established to ensure that the lowest income populations would be served with the voucher. Chris discussed how the Homeless Preference Pilot Expansion might serve the intent without a specific target.</p> <p>Suggest: Expansion of the Homeless Preference Pilot in conjunction with strengthened Continuum of Care with 80% of the state covered within 5 years to serve those most in need with the Housing Choice Voucher. Expand and capture the metro areas in 2006 Homeless Preference Pilot Expansion. Also review data after year one to compare whether there was any difference in income populations served.</p> <p>HMLS Preference Pilot, eligible participants must meet the definition of homeless and agencies develop a qualified service plan (change from 28 days to 90 days). 90 days also allows for time to find utility, reunification, first month's rent and other necessary resources. 28 days is just not enough time. Extending to 90 days will effect lease up. Lease up considerations results in limiting the number of vouchers that can be committed to the homeless preference pilot. Future considerations should also include review of counties who are serving higher income (compared to 15% AML) populations with the voucher and get to serving lower income populations most in need. Expand and capture the metro areas in 2006 Homeless Preference Pilot Expansion. Also review data after year one to compare whether there was any difference in income populations served.</p> <p>What makes a strong continuum of care body? Input from external partners.</p> <p>Office of Existing Housing policy and written materials will encourage the overall objective of serving those most in need, the lowest income populations. Guidance will be provided to HCV administrators on outreach and marketing to those most in need. The Housing Agent will contact the C of C contact person to request materials to provide to families at the briefing. The Resource Specialist will review and approve what is being distributed. Utility shut-off and food distribution are examples of the type of contact information to be sought. Other possibilities include inviting the C of C contact person to group briefings, and C of C newsletters would be a nice addition.</p> <p>Majority ruled that a target of 15% or below would not be put in writing at this time. HA's will</p>

be required to contact local service providers when waiting list opens and document these efforts (incorporate into Resource Specialist review). Review Waiting List policy to include language of outreach to lowest income populations. 30 days prior the briefing, hold an outreach meeting consisting of service providers – networking.

II. Creating Incentives for Self-Sufficiency – CHOICE Housing Choice Voucher Programs, Rob and Sandy

Case studies, Moving to Work, HUD

Rob – feedback from Detroit HUD staff

Rob – program options, May we operate a pilot program?

Memo to Rob Nelson requesting to participate in pilot programs as opportunities arise and/or may we develop a pilot program much like the flexibility offered in the Moving to Work pilot.

III. Voucher Strategies – finalize Critical Issues

Action Item #6 paperless, handhelds – See email from Clarence Stone: We need to establish a goal with a timeframe. What are realistic goals to achieve in the next year. Brian has a request in with a bank to learn acceptable process and procedure.

Action Item #2, Rob to discuss options, Sandy FSS and research: Sandy to email Rob request (see above)

Action Item #4, Bob Howard to provide update and research: Paulette Smith is lead expert. We need to better coordinate with Community Health or visual inspector before and after removal of the paint. A pre and post inspection is now required. Paulette and Barbara have taken the lead clearance test class. Paulette is invited to the next meeting to discuss our strategy. Paulette will talk with Bill Parker of CD to discuss the plan for training and roll-out of this enhanced requirement – What is MSHDA already doing to address this issue?

IV. Homework Assignments

Future Action Items: do we have other critical issues in addition to the five we've been working on?

Wait List discussion: Massachusetts or other PHA's who have combined waiting lists – one list or regional lists to serve the entire state with the Housing Choice Voucher. NAHRO might know. Perhaps Kerri Ackerson can do some research.

Daryel will take a look at the regs for any considerations/limitations we may have to the waiting list discussion.

V. Next Meeting, September 28th, 2005, 9:00-11:00 a.m., MSHDA

Facilitators: Chris Collette and Cathy Simons

Recorder: Sandy Pearson